

FAST FACTS

- FernLeaf is a K-12 public, charter school
- Founded in 2016
- Located in western North Carolina
- Total Enrollment: 842
- Enrollment is based on a lottery
- 9th-12th Grades Enrollment: 151
- 25-26 school year will hold our first graduating class of ~20 students
- Average Class Size: 18
- Student-to-Teacher Ratio: 9:1
- 18% of students come from families below the federal poverty line
- Faculty: 50% with advanced degrees
- Accredited by NC State Board of Ed
- CEEB Code: 791787
- ACT Code: 791787
- NC Education Agency Code 45B000

MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

Mission Statement: FernLeaf's mission is to foster a rich learning environment that embodies the essence of community, understanding, and the human spirit. Grounded in humble respect for our surroundings, the individual, and the world as a whole, we seek to engage the unique passions and aptitudes of our school community so that, in addition to achieving academic fluency, students become thoughtful, compassionate, and engaged.

Educational Philosophy: At FernLeaf, we nurture curiosity, creativity, and community, empowering each learner to grow into their fullest potential. We believe in cultivating academic excellence alongside social-emotional development, preparing students for success in college and in life. Our approach integrates project-based learning, outdoor education, mindfulness programming, fieldwork, and authentic community engagement—ensuring that our students develop resilience, empathy, and purpose.

SIGNATURE PROGRAMS & FUNDAMENTALS

MINDFULNESS

- fostering focus, reflection, and well-being through mindful practices integrated into daily learning.

OUTDOOR & EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- authentic connections with the natural world through fieldwork, environmental studies, community partnerships & outdoor expeditions.

OFF CAMPUS OVERNIGHTS & FIELDWORK

- all students participate in 8 fieldwork experiences annually plus 1 multi-night overnight each year. These foster independence, resilience, interpersonal skills, and curiosity, preparing students to thrive in college.

SERVICE & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- service-learning across grade levels fosters civic responsibility and leadership.

ADVISORY PROGRAM

- mentoring relationships support academic and personal growth.

ACADEMIC RIGOR

- deep learning & understanding of concepts achieved through project-based learning and experiential education as well as honors, AP and dual enrollment opportunities

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(22 Credits)

ENGLISH.....	4 Credits
MATHEMATICS.....	4 Credits
SCIENCE.....	3 Credits
SOCIAL STUDIES.....	4 Credits
HEALTH/PE.....	1 Credit
(Must include CPR certification)	
ELECTIVES.....	6 Credits
(May include: Career & Technical Education Electives, Arts Electives, World Languages or Additional Core Elective Classes)	

DIGITAL PORTFOLIO

In addition to the NC state credit requirements for graduation, FernLeaf High School students create a personalized digital portfolio that documents their accomplishments related to four core components of our school mission:

- becoming a thoughtful, compassionate, and engaged member of their community.
- discovering unique passions & aptitudes
- 50 total community service hours over their high school career

FERNLEAF DIPLOMA ENDORSEMENTS

FernLeaf offers seven unique diploma endorsements which showcase the uniqueness of FernLeaf students. [View a detailed description of each endorsement here.](#)

1. Environmental Stewardship
2. Excellence in Leadership
3. Adventure Sports
4. Travel and Exploration
5. Service
6. Athletics
7. Unique Passions & Aptitudes

GRADING, ADVANCED COURSEWORK & CLASS RANK

GRADING

FernLeaf high school students receive both weighted and unweighted GPAs. The unweighted GPA is based on a standard 4.0 scale, while the weighted GPA reflects the rigor of advanced coursework, with Honors courses carrying up to a 4.5 and AP courses up to a 5.0.

ADVANCED COURSEWORK & RIGOR

Advanced course placement is determined through teacher recommendation and academic readiness.

- Advanced Placement (AP) courses in core and elective subject areas
- Honors-level coursework across disciplines
- Dual enrollment with Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College & Blue Ridge Community College
- Supplemental AP, Honors, STEM & Humanities courses offered virtually through NCSSM Connect and NC Virtual Public School
- Interdisciplinary, project-based learning that emphasizes research, collaboration, and presentation skills

CLASS RANK

FernLeaf high school students are given a class rank based on their weighted grade point average.

AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES & EXTRACURRICULARS

FernLeaf High School offers a variety of afterschool options that inspire curiosity, connection, and growth. Students may participate in **traditional athletics** (e.g. soccer, basketball, volleyball, cross country), **adventure sports** (e.g. backpacking, climbing, canoeing, orienteering), **interest clubs** (e.g. art, theater, sketchbook, obstacle course racing & music), **leadership clubs** (e.g. Interact & other mentoring clubs), as well as **academic clubs** (e.g. science, Rubik's cube, Esports). Each experience encourages teamwork, exploration, and allows students to truly find their unique passions and aptitudes.

FERNLEAF CONTACT INFORMATION

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